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Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 101132

15
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OASD/I AND L:JBENNETT
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EUR/RPM:COL RTHOMPSON
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION NATO
INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS
USNMR SHAPE
USLOSACLANT
USCINCEUR
CINCLANT
CINCUSNAVEUR
CINCUSAFE
CINCUSAREUR
US DEL MC

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 101132

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, NATO

SUBJECT: NUNN STANDARDIZATION REPORT

1. SECDEF FORWARDED THE INITIAL STANDARDIZATION REPORT
REQUIRED BY THE NUNN AMENDMENT TO THE DEFENSE
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PAGE 02 STATE 101132

APPROPRIATIONS AUTHORIZATION ACT 1975 ON APRIL 28, 1975.

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006

IN LIGHT OF OUR INTENTION TO KEEP NATO FULLY
ABREAST OF OUR ACTIONS IN THIS MATTER AND TO CONSULT
AS APPROPRIATE, REQUEST YOU DELIVER THE FOLLOWING
LETTER FROM SECDEF TO SYG LUNS:

BEGIN TEXT:

A. DEAR JOSEPH, I AM FORWARDING TO YOU UNDER SEPARATE
COVER THE INITIAL STANDARDIZATION REPORT REQUIRED BY
THE NUNN AMENDMENT, WHICH I HAVE SUBMITTED TO THE
CONGRESS. I BELIEVE YOU AND THE PERMREPS WILL FIND
THE REPORT TO BE ENTIRELY IN ACCORD WITH MY REMARKS
TO THE MINISTERS LAST DECEMBER AND OUR CONVERSATION
IN FEBRUARY. IN THE REPORT WE RECOGNIZE THE
DESIRABILITY OF GREATER STANDARDIZATION AND INTER-
OPERABILITY WITHIN NATO AND EMPHASIZE THAT THE
ACHIEVEMENT OF THIS GOAL IS A TWO-WAY STREET, WHICH
MUST BE TRAVERSED ON A COOPERATIVE BASIS WITH OUR ALLIES.

B. IN PREPARING THIS INITIAL REPORT, OUR GOAL
HAS BEEN TO PROVIDE THE US CONGRESS WITH THE BACK-
GROUND AND INFORMATION NECESSARY TO EFFECTIVELY
EXERCISE ITS RESPONSIBILITIES IN THIS AREA. THE REPORT
NOT ONLY SUPPORTS THE NEED FOR GREATER STANDARDIZATION
AND INTEROPERABILITY AMONG THE ARMED FORCES OF THE
ALLIANCE BUT ALSO IDENTIFIES VARIOUS ON-GOING AND
PLANNED INITIATIVES WHICH WILL LEAD TO IMPROVEMENTS
IN THIS VERY IMPORTANT AREA. THESE INITIATIVES INCLUDE
NEW EFFORTS AND EMPHASIS WHICH WE MUST NOT ONLY WORK
OUT OURSELVES BUT ALSO PURSUE WITHIN THE ALLIANCE.

C. I THINK IT IS SIGNIFICANT THAT, IN ADDITION TO
THE MILITARY ASPECTS OF STANDARDIZATION, THE POLITICAL
AND ECONOMIC CONSIDERATIONS ARE ALSO DISCUSSED IN THE
REPORT. FUTURE SEMI-ANNUAL REPORTS WILL SEEK TO
INFORM THE CONGRESS FURTHER ON WHAT IS BEING DONE TOWARD
STANDARDIZATION IN NATO AND THE PROGRESS BEING MADE ON
THE PLANNNED INITIATIVES. WE WOULD WELCOME YOUR
REACTIONS TO THIS FIRST REPORT, AS WE FULLY INTEND TO
CONTINUE TO TAKE NATO'S VIEWS CAREFULLY INTO ACCOUNT
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IN THE PREPARATION OF FOLLOW-ON REPORTS.

D. PERHAPS THE MOST SIGNIFICANT ADVANCE IN
STANDARDIZATION CAN BE MADE BY FOCUSING OUR ATTENTION
ON ATTAINING GREATER INTEROPERABILITY OF SUCH ITEMS
AS FUELS, AMMUNITION, SPARE PARTS AND DATA LINKS.
INTEROPERABILITY APPEARS TO OFFER THE GREATEST
OPPORTUNITY FOR IMPROVEMENT IN MILITARY EFFECTIVENESS

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006

WITH THE LEAST LIKELIHOOD OF POLITICAL RESISTANCE. WITH THIS IN MIND, I WOULD LIKE TO REQUEST THAT NATO MILITARY AUTHORITIES IDENTIFY HOW THEIR MILITARY CAPABILITY WOULD BE IMPROVED WITH GREATER INTER-OPERABILITY IN SPECIFIC ITEMS. IT WOULD BE PARTICULARLY USEFUL IF THEIR EFFORT MENTIONED THE ITEMS IN WHICH AN ADEQUATE DEGREE OF STANDARDIZATION OR INTER-OPERABILITY ALREADY EXISTS AND PROVIDED A LIST OF ITEMS WHICH WOULD YIELD THE HIGHEST PAYOFF IN TERMS OF COMBAT FORCE INTEROPERABILITY. IT MIGHT ALSO BE HELPFUL TO FORM AN AD HOC GROUP OF KEY REPRESENTATIVES OF RELEVANT NATO ORGANIZATIONS TO LOOK AT BETTER WAYS TO USE NATO MACHINERY TO ADVANCE THE OBJECTIVES OF INTEROPERABILITY. WE WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR PRELIMINARY VIEWS BY JUNE WITH THE FINAL REPLY BEING MADE AVAILABLE IN NOVEMBER. THIS SCHEDULE WOULD ALLOW US TO INCORPORATE THE INFORMATION INTO THE NEXT TWO STANDARDIZATION REPORTS.

E. IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS WHAT WE BELIEVE NATO NEEDS MOST IN THIS AREA IS TO ELIMINATE THE UNNECESSARY DUPLICATION WHICH CURRENTLY EXISTS IN DEVELOPMENT, PRODUCTION AND LOGISTICS WITH THE INCREASE IN DEFENSE EXPENDITURES AND DECREASED FORCE EFFECTIVENESS WHICH RESULT THEREFROM. ALTHOUGH THERE ARE FORMIDABLE OBSTACLES, WE ARE HOPEFUL OF MAKING PROGRESS. THIS WILL REQUIRE BOTH A RECOGNITION AND A WILLINGNESS ON BOTH SIDES OF THE ATLANTIC TO PURSUE STANDARDIZATION AND INTEROPERABILITY ALONG A TWO-WAY STREET. SINCERELY YOURS, J.R. SCHLESINGER

END TEXT

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2. COPIES OF THE REPORT TO THE CONGRESS ON THE STANDARDIZATION OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT IN NATO AND OTHER RELATED ACTIONS ARE BEING HAND CARRIED TO USNATO BY MGENERAL D.P. MCAULIFFE FOR TRANSMITTAL TO SYG LUNS AND PERMREPS. SUGGEST YOU DISCUSS WITH THE PERMREPS AS APPROPRIATE THE PLANNED INITIATIVES OUTLINED IN THE REPORT EMPHASIZING THE NEED TO LOOK AT BETTER WAYS TO USE NATO MACHINERY TO ADVANCE THE OBJECTIVES OF INTEROPERABILITY AND THE POSSIBILITY OF FORMING AN AD HOC GROUP OF KEY REPRESENTATIVES FROM RELEVANT NATO ORGANIZATIONS TO DO THIS. MISSION MIGHT COORDINATE THIS LATTER SUGGESTION WITH ASYG TUCKER, WHO WE BELIEVE WILL FAVOR THIS APPROACH.

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